# 01491

1965/04/14

SANITIZED

28a

Department of State

SANITIZED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) State Dept. letter, 1/4/78
By JK NARS, Date 1/30/78

6
Action
SS
Info

Only distribution

11688

1965 APR 14 AM 4 47

NNNNVV MJB465JIA383B
OO RUEHCR
DE RUMJIR 789A 14/0910Z
O 140905Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUHKA/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
BT

IMMEDIATE

~~TOPSECRET~~ ACTION IMMEDIATE DEPT 3374 INFO IMMEDIATE CINCPAC 1996 (140905Z) FROM SAIGON APRIL 14, 5PM

LIMDIS

REF: A. DEPTEL 2184 B. EMBTEL 3290

KGDS-4

AS REPORTED IN REF B, I SOUGHT AND RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION TO INTRODUCE THE MARINE CORPS ELEMENTS SPECIFIED IN REF A. GENERAL WESTMORELAND HAS JUST REPORTED TO ME THAT, TO HIS SURPRISE, THE MARINE UNITS WHICH HAVE LANDED INCLUDE 155 AND 8" HOWITZERS AND TANKS IN ADDITION TO THOSE ELEMENTS FOR WHICH I HAVE OBTAINED AUTHORIZATION. THIS ACTION IS HIGHLY EMBARRASSING TO ME AND CONTRAVENES THE DECISIONS BEARING ON THE MARINE DEPLOYMENTS TAKEN IN CPN 3374 1996 (140905Z 14 5PM A. 2184 B. EWOP A 155 8"

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 789A ~~TOPSECRET~~
WASHINGTON DURING MY RECENT VISIT AS I UNDERSTOOD THEM. APART FROM THIS FACT, THE INCLUSION OF THESE HEAVY WEAPONS INAPPROPRIATE FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS WILL ENCOURAGE THE CRITICS OF U.S. POLICY WHO ARE SAYING THAT WE ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT FIGHTING RED CHINA THAN VIET CONG.

I WOULD HAVE OPPOSED THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS HEAVY EQUIPMENT HAD I KNOWN IT IN TIME. NOW THAT IT IS IN, IT WOULD COMPOUND THE MISTAKE TO REMOVE IT. I SHALL TRY TO EXPLAIN THIS AFFAIR IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO ENCOURAGE THE SUSPICION THAT WE ARE SLIPPING UNITS INTO SVN WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. TAYLOR.

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 4:56 AM 4/14/65
PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA AT 5:15 AM 4/14/65

~~TOP SECRET~~

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

SANITIZED COPY

COPY
LYNDON B. JOHNSON LIBRARY
COPY LBJ LIBRARY